

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 08812 180926Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 EB-08 /080 W

-----077304 180946Z /16

P R 180902Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7044

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CIVILETTI, BENJAMIN)

SUBJECT: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN KOREA

1. ARRIVAL OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL CIVILETTI, MR. MICHEL AND MR. MEYER, OCTOBER 15, GIVEN FRONTPAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC TREATMENT IN WEEKEND PRESS. OCTOBER 18, PAPERS FRONTPAGE COURTESY CALL ON JUSTICE MINISTER YI SON-CHUNG AND INITIAL 8 HOUR MEETING WITH JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIALS. STORIES HEADLINED "AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURAL RULES" AND QUOTED JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AT END OF MEETING, AS FOLLOWS: "THE MEETING WAS LONG BUT WORTHWHILE. SEVERAL PROCEDURAL GROUNDRULES WERE AGREED TO BY THE REPRESENTATIVES AND EARNEST AND USEFUL PRESENTATION OF LAW AND CIRCUMSTANCES WAS MADE AND PARTIALLY DISCUSSED. WE SHALL MEET AGAIN TO CONTINUE OUR NEGOTIATION AT 2 PM TOMORROW."

2. PRESS ALSO QUOTES CIVILETTI SAYING "MY INTENTIONS HERE IN SEOUL ARE TO HAVE FRUITFUL AND PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR COMMUNICATION WITH PAK TONG-SON" WHILE REFUSING TO COMMENT ON WHETHER HE AND MR. PAK WILL MEET. HOWEVER, CHOSON ILBO ADDS CIVILETTI SAID THAT SINCE HE HAD HAD NO CHANCE TO MEET PAK, HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE LATTER WOULD COOPERATE.
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OTHERWISE PRESS HAS REFRAINED FROM SPECULATION ON CASE, ALTHOUGH INTEREST IN IT REMAINS INTENSE.

3. COMMENT: DURING SEVERAL BRIEF CONVERSATIONS OVER WEEKEND, FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TONG-JIN EMPHASIZED TO AMBASSADOR DESIRE OF ROKG TO ACHIEVE QUICK SOLUTION TO PAK TONG-SON PROBLEM. HE SAID ATMOSPHERE WAS FAVORABLE

TO REACHING COMPROMISE WITH USG SINCE, IN HIS PERSONAL
VIEW, IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS IF THERE WERE BREAKDOWN IN
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND JUSTICE MINISTRY
OFFICIALS. AFTER BRIEFING PRESIDENT PARK ON HIS TALKS
WITH SECRETARY VANCE, WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONSIDERED
MOST HELPFUL, PRESIDENT PARK CONCURRED IN DESIRABILITY OF
QUICK SOLUTION. HOWEVER, SPECIFICS OF "SOLUTION" WERE
NOT DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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